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Polly Lowry
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
110 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

December 29, 2006

Dear Ms. Lowry,

As part of a written comment regarding the Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for Existing Milk Cow Dairies, our concerns are as follows.

We don't believe there is a seepage problem with existing dairy lagoons. Health and Human services of Tulare County draws water samples from our domestic water system which is unfiltered and untreated a minimum of four times a year, and there has never been an indication of any type of problem. Further experiences over thirty years of operating with these lagoons indicate that they seal, and remain sealed. Test wells become prohibitively expensive and don't provide any useable data.

Also, we hope and pray there are no limits put on when and where we may irrigate using manure water. We know over irrigating isn't a good thing and costs money, so we are not doing that. What we need to do is be able to irrigate during winter months if conditions are dry. In some parts of the country, they do not know what dry can be, but here in the Central Valley when we do not experience any type of precipitation, we must irrigate our crops and land.

It is imperative that new rules and regulations do not create an unreasonable and overwhelming financial burden for existing dairies operating within their Conditional Use Permits.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss this further.

Thank-you for your time,

Art Van Beek
Owner of El Monte Dairy